

ARGENTINE PATAGONIA

Argentine Patagonia, Various Ascents, and Second Ascent of Condorito. (This account complements the brief notes in last year's volume, pp. 281-2.) On January 29, 1998, Michael Richter and I climbed Guillaumet via the Col de Droite. On February 4, Jack Tigle (Scotland) and I climbed the Aguja de la Silla via the Brecha de los Italianos (normal route, 5.9). The route starts from the same point as the American route on Fitz Roy. On February 8, Jack Tigle and I climbed Poincenot via the Whillans route. Ten other teams climbed this route in February. In February, Jack Tigle and I climbed Fitz Roy via the Franco-Argentine route (5.10.+). The conditions were perfect, so we managed to climb every pitch of the route free. Starting at Paso Superior (high camp) at 2 a.m., we reached the top at 7 p.m. and were back at Paso Superior at 3:30 a.m. the next day. I needed five attempts to reach the top.

On February 18, I climbed Aguja Saint Exupery via *Condorito* with Rainer Treppte. It was the route's second ascent. The route has 101 (!) bolts, including two bolts at every belay. The first eight pitches are perfect, involving steep cracks of every size, then two pitches of free/A1/A2, then four pitches of flakes/cracks.

On February 24, Frank K. (Belgium) and I attempted the Casarotto Pillar on Fitz Roy via the Kearney-Naight route. We made it up to rock pitch 8. After climbing the 400-meter couloir, we slept for two hours. The morning started with clouds and at 11 a.m. the top of Fitz Roy was covered in clouds and storms started again. February 23 was the last good weather day of the season.

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ANTARCTICA

Antarctic Peninsula, Various Ascents. It was reported that in February, 1997, Greg Mortimer led an Australian team that made a number of ascents from their boat, *Professor Molchanov*. The team climbed the central peak of Ronge Island; a 600-meter peak on the south side of Seaplane Point in Curtis Bay; and another ca. 600-meter peak, "Mt. Dan Roberts," at the southeastern end of Lemaire Island. No further details are available, though the ascents were believed to be straight-forward. (*High Mountain Sports* 190)

Mt. Shinn, Northeast Face. It was reported that Ralph Dujmovits led a four-member team that made the first ascent of the easy northeast face of Mt. Shinn (4557m) in December, 1995. They then climbed the southeast flank (50°) of Mt. Avalanche (3950m), the south ridge (I/II, 50°) of Mt. Jumper (2890m), and the North (2450m) and South (2400m) summits of Mt. Bearskin. (*High Mountain Sports* 190)